APHIS – Plant Protection and Quarantine

Daily Situation Report: Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)

April 27, 2007

Survey and Diagnostics Information:

Counties	Survey		Diagnostics		
	Number of Traps	Number of Positive Traps	Presumptive Positive	Confirmed Positive	
				Today	Total
Alameda	1,224	79	0	1	101
Contra Costa	1,786	39	0	0	46
Del Norte	105	0	0	0	0
Fresno	400	0	0	0	0
Humboldt	27	0	0	0	0
Imperial	149	0	0	0	0
Kern	249	0	0	0	0
Kings	133	0	0	0	0
Los Angeles	2,743	0	0	0	0
Madera	205	0	0	0	0
Marin	696	8	0	0	8
Mendocino	50	0	0	0	0
Merced	80	0	0	0	0
Monterey	345	27	0	1	43
Napa	288	0	0	0	0
Orange	791	0	0	0	0
Riverside	470	0	0	0	0
Sacramento	471	0	0	0	0
San Benito	28	0	0	0	0
San Bernardino	183	0	0	0	0
San Diego	394	0	0	0	0
San Francisco	107	15	0	0	51
San Joaquin	66	0	0	0	0
San Luis Obispo	21	0	0	0	0
San Mateo	630	1	0	0	1
Santa Barbara	215	0	0	0	0
Santa Clara	1,104	3	0	0	3
Santa Cruz	375	254	0	121	1,254
Solano	231	0	0	0	0
Sonoma	204	0	0	0	0
Stanislaus	259	0	0	0	0
Sutter	110	0	0	0	0
Trinity	79	0	0	0	0
Tulare	100	0	0	0	0
Tuolumne	25	0	0	0	0
Ventura	227	0	0	0	0
Yolo	128	0	0	0	0
Yuba	42	0	0	0	0
Total	14,740	426	0	123	1,507

- **Survey**
  - Survey teams continue to implement a rigorous detection and delimiting survey for the light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana,* in 38 counties.

  - 14,740 pheromone baited traps have been deployed to date. Traps are placed in and around retail and production nurseries, at ports of entry, and in the open environment and are being inspected bi-weekly.

  - Visual inspections of all nurseries located within 1.5 miles from any traps with confirmed LBAM are conducted for the presence of live stages.

- **Identification and Diagnostics**
  - Trapped moths are forwarded to the California Department of Agriculture's (CDFA) Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory for the initial identification. All LBAM "presumptive positive" moths from each county are forwarded to the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, for confirmation. In counties where previous specimens have been confirmed by SEL, subsequent captures are identified by CDFA.

  - A total of 1,507 moths have been confirmed to date as LBAM. Most of the captures (97%), however, are from traps located in two specific geographical areas. The first area, representing 83% of the captures, is confined to a small section of southern Santa Cruz County. The second area, which represents approximately 14% of the all LBAM captures, includes the contiguous northwest Alameda, western Contra Costa, southeastern Marin, and northern San Francisco counties. The remainder (3%) came from single trap captures in Monterey, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.

Operational Update:

- **Technical Working Group (TWG)**
  - APHIS has assembled a team of subject matter experts from the United States, Australia, and New Zealand to provide recommendations on survey methods, mitigation tools, and eradication strategies.

- **Incident Command**
  - Thirty-six (36) personnel are on-site (32-CDFA/Counties; 4-APHIS) and assuming various roles within the ICS structure.

- **Regulatory Actions**
  - CDFA has established a LBAM quarantine of at least 182 square miles in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, Marin and Santa Clara counties. The regulations prohibit the movement of all nursery stock and host fruits and

vegetables from the quarantine region unless it is certified as free from the pest by an agricultural official.

- APHIS has developed a LBAM Federal Order requiring inspection and certification of all nursery stock and host commodities from the quarantine areas in California. The Federal Order is scheduled to be finalized by May 2, 2007.

- To date, CDFA has issued a total of 63 compliance agreements to establishments located within the quarantine area requiring regular inspections of all nursery stock and report to regulatory officers any suspect LBAM.

- **Trace-back and Trace-forward**
  - Trace-back and trace-forward investigations to determine the source and potential distribution of LBAM continue, including the inspection of nursery establishments.

- **Treatment**
  - To date, host plants in one retail nursery in San Francisco and two production nurseries in Santa Cruz County have been treated with Chlorpyrifos.
  - EPA has issued today a "Section 18" exemption for ISOMATE, one of the pheromone formulations used for mating disruption and eradication.
  - CDFA and APHIS are in the process of finalizing LBAM eradication strategies using mating disruption and other control measures.

Trade Update:

- APHIS informed trading partners of the LBAM finds in California. Additional reports were provided to Canada and Mexico in response to their requests for additional information. A team from Canada is planning to visit California next week and another from Mexico later in May.

Communication and Outreach:

- Public Information Officers (PIO) and officials from CDFA, APHIS, and Counties continue to field questions from the press and the public regarding the LBAM finds and the regulatory framework.

Background:

- On February 6, 2007, a private citizen near Berkeley in Alameda County, California, reported that two suspect moths had been captured in a blacklight trap on his property.

- In response, pheromone-baited traps were placed on March 1, 2007, in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Trap inspections began March 7, 2007.

- On March 16, 2007, the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, confirmed that the two samples submitted were positive, and validated the results using morphological testing.

- USDA and CDFA issued press releases on March 22, 2007, announcing the confirmation of LBAM in California. APHIS. Also, APHIS issued a SPRO letter informing States and stakeholders of the LBAM in California.

- The light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana,* is a native pest of Australia and is now widely distributed New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and New Caledonia. Although it was reported in Hawaii in the late 1800s, the LBAM find in California is the first on the US mainland.

- If left uncontrolled, LABM could cause significant damage to some 250 plant species, including stone fruit (peaches, plums, nectarines, cherries, and apricots), pome fruit (apples and pears), grapes, and citrus.